

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: EXTREME LEFT TO OFFER UNIFIED SLATE IN ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING HEADTED DEBATE THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT HAS DECIDED TO RUN A JOINT SLATE IN THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THIS NEW GROUPING EXPECTS TO GAIN TWO TO THREE PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND SEATS IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT. DRAWING AS IT WILL LARGELY FROM THE YOUNG VOTERS, PRESENCE OF A UNIFIED EXTREME LEFT TICKET ON THE BALLOT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN ITS QUEST TO RETAIN THE GAINS IT MADE IN LADT JUNE'S ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS AND POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE ITS SHOWING. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING A LENGTHY AND REPORTEDLY HEADTED DEBATE, THE PARTY OF PROLETARIAN UNITY FOR COMMUNISM (PDUP) HAS AGREED TO OPEN ITS ELECTORAL LIST TO CANDIDATES FROM ANOTHER EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY (EXTREME LEFT) GROUP, LOTTA CONTINUA. THIS ACTION ENSURES THAT THE EXTREME LEFT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A UNITARY TICKET IN THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS, SINCE THE ACCORD REACHED INVOLVED VIRTUALLY ALL THE MAJOR GROUPINGS AT THE
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LEFT END OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

2. DEBATE OVER WHETHER TO INCLUDE LOTTA CONTINUA REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PSUP TICKET FOUND THE PARTY SPLIT ESSENTIALLY ALONG THE SAME LINES AS AT THE RECENT NATIONAL CONGRESS (REFTEL). ONE GROUP, WHICH FAVORS A RELATIVELY SOFT LINE TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT IN ITALY, STRONGLY OPPOSED THE IDEA OF THE INCLUSION ON THE TICKET OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST RADICAL OF THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT GROUPS. THE SECOND GROUP, WHICH HOLDS THAT THE PCI HAS GONE BEYOND THE PALE IM MAKING COMPROMISES WITH THE BOURGEOIS CLASS, ARGUED FOR THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY OF THE EXTREME LEFT AS A STEP TOWARD AN ALTERNATIVE OF THE THREAT OF S SPLINTERING OF THE EXTREME LEFT VOTE, THE LATTER GROUP CARRIED THE DAY ALTHOUGH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RESIGNATION OF ONE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIES.

3. THE AGREEMENT ACTUALLY WORKED OUT IS EXCEEDINGLY LOOSE. WHILE LOTTA CONTINUA CONDIDATES CAN APPEAR ON PDUP TICKETS BASED ON ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, BOTH PDUP AND LOTTA CONTINUA RETAIN FULL POLITICAL AUTONOMY AND THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON A JOINT PLATFORM FOR THE ELECTORAL GROUPING.

4. COMMENT: WHILE MOST OBSERVERS HAD ALREADY CONCEDED THAT PDUP HAS A CHANCE OF PICKING UP SOME SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILAN AREA, THE LATEST AGREEMENT WILL CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN THE VOTE-GETTING ABILITY OF THE PDUP TICKET. CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT PDUP COULD RECEIVE AS MUCH AS TWO TO THREE PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL VOTE, UP SOMEWHAT FROM THE TOTAL ACHIEVED IN LAST YEAR'S ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTION. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS THE FACT THAT THE PARTY IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO ENTER THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT BY WINNING AT LEAST ONE SEAT ON ITS OWN, THUS OBTAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING LEFT-OVER VOTES ("RESTI")

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TO CAPTURE SEATS IN OTHER DISTRICTS. SINCE PDUP HAS TRADITIONALLY DRAEN MOST OF ITS SUPPORT FROM THE YOUNG VOTERS, ITS STRENGTHENED TICKET IS BOUND TO HURT THE PCI MORE THAN ANY OTHER POLITICAL GROUP. COMMENTARIES IN THE PCI'S DAILY L'UNITA SHOW THE PARTY'S SENSITIVITY TO THIS DEVELOPMENT AND INDICATE THAT IT WILL ATTEMPT TO MOBILIZE AN EFFORT TO LIMIT THE LOSSES IT SUFFERS TO ITS LEFT.VOLPE

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